

# THE WINTER PROBLEM OF THE NEW OR OLD FUR COAT

By ELEANOR HOYT BRAINER.

THERE was a time when the woman who could afford a fur coat had a seal-skin coat and the woman who could not afford a fur coat did not have a seal-skin coat. Beyond that the situation had few complications. One seal-skin coat looked exactly like another and from season to season the lines remained practically the same.

But that is ancient history. In the first place, real Alaska seal is gone up so appallingly in price that coats of it are rare and very costly. Its muskrat dyed to imitate seal and attractive enough, though lacking many of the virtues of Alaska seal.

Modish fur coats to-day do not stop with seal, Alaska, French or Hudson. A host of other furs are pressed into coat service; and, as for that matter of line—well, a most casual tour through the furriers' shops will show one that fur coats are almost as varied as cloth ones and that the only one point in which they are unanimous is that they make the fur coat of other years look old-fashioned.

Good fur is good fur and has a certain distinction, however it is cut; but the emphasis of the fur coat today is on the woman's own taste. A handsome fur coat several years old is a dilemma. Where alteration is a mere matter of a little shortening here or curving there remodelling a fur coat is not a very serious business, though it is always fairly expensive; but, when it comes to giving a narrow straight coat the ample flare prescribed by this year's modes, remodelling a garment of handsome fur means almost as much as the original cost of the coat.

Many women confronted by this problem are deliberately cutting up their old fur coats and using them for lavish trimming on new coats of cheaper fur, velvet or cloth cut according to the newest dictates of fashion. There is usually enough of the original coat for muff and toote to match, and so one obtains an ultra smart costume at a cost comparatively reasonable; but many a practical and independent woman is wearing her narrow fur coat just as it was made and saying philosophically, "Styles will change again."

It is well, even for the woman who is having her coat remodelled, to keep that truth in mind: styles will change again, and unless one has money to throw to the birds a certain degree of conservatism is wise when one is investing in a good fur coat.

Many altogether delectable models shown this winter quite ignore this element of conservatism. They are frankly faddish and many of them are bewitching enough to tempt even a sober minded woman to recklessness. These short fur coats, for instance. Never were there such coquettish and delightful short models. The stout or elderly woman looks a distressing sight in such a coat, though many a stout and elderly woman seems blandly ignorant of that fact; but the young at a things, with their short, flaring skirts and saucy toques, wear the short absurdly daring fur coats charmingly.

They all do flare, these short coats, though they vary in length and in the violence of the flare. A little seal-skin coat with narrow bordering band of skunk reaches only just past the waist line, is buttoned at the throat by one big button, closes over the chest, but curves away from the bust line, has a high, close collar and cuffs of skunk and widens from the narrow shoulders toward the bottom until it falls easily over the hip curve and even ripples a little in the rounded, slightly dipping back.

This model leaves the more defined and slender waist lines of the frock front in view and so does not shorten and widen the figure as a coat as short but closing all the way down the front would.

The coat closing down the front is likely to be a trifle longer than the little coat already described, though the front often ends at the waist line and the bottom line ripples downward over the hips to a rounded back that may or may not reach well below the hip curve.

A coat of this class in finest black caracul has collar and cuffs and border of kolinsky, and vertical pocket openings at each side of the front are also outlined with kolinsky.

Cuffs a little longer still are sometimes loosely belted with fur in a bit at the waist line and ripple full

## "The Styles May Change," Says the Wise Woman, as She Contemplates the Prevailing Flare, the High Cost of Skins and Her Perfectly Sound Last Year's Garment

below, sometimes cut to flare from shoulder to bottom. And then come longer coats, half length, three-quarter, seven-eighths, full length. Never, as has been said before, was such diversity in fur garments.

The coat more or less fitted at the waist and flaring below is not having the success predicted for it. It is modish, it is very becoming to some women, it is to be seen wherever furs and fashionable folk congregate, but women as a class have not indorsed it, have given their tastes for the loose, comfortable fur coat widening into ample fulness at bottom, easily slipped on over another coat, a sweater or anything one chooses to wear for extra warmth.

In fact, the practical type of fur coat now as always first favorite, though its form has changed. The women who can own several fur coats are comparatively few, and if only one fur coat is to be in a wardrobe the sensible woman chooses one that will answer for many purposes.

If expense need not be taken into account one can have a jaunty short fur coat for skating and trotting, a warm, loose, comfortable one for motoring, a slightly fitted flaring one for afternoon wear.

Caracul and seal are the most popular coat pelts—for various reasons. They are supple, becoming, fairly durable, and not prohibitively expensive. Of course the coats in these two furs vary enormously in quality and smartness. Made by an artist, trimmed freely with contrasting and expensive fur, exquisitely lined, such a coat may command a high price, but there are good looking models at prices very reasonable as decent fur coats go, though all fur is higher than it was a few years ago.

Moleskin is a lovely coat fur for present day lines, but none too durable, and, beaver, while beautiful in color and texture, does not stand hard wear

particularly well, the hairs matting badly with hard usage. Breitachwanz in the supplier grades and the heavier broadtail are exceedingly costly now. So we come back to caracul and seal with trimming of other fur in any and every grade from cone to sable.

Of course there are quantities of coats more extreme and less practical. One furrier shows a medium length loose coat of beaver, narrow of shoulder, very full of bottom and trimmed in a light red fox that is oddly but triumphantly harmonious.

In another shop is a spectacular but stunning coat of white cone, fitted in a little at the waist, with skirt flaring prodigiously below a hip seam and running down in points at front and back. A large collar, wide cuffs and a wide band on the bottom are of black fox.

This firm shows also a delightful coat of moleskin, loosely belted, coming down well below the hips, very full at bottom and trimmed in fox dyed to the tone of the moleskin.

One of the handsomest models of a dressy sort in this same collection is a long coat in baby caracul with a plaited back, hanging flat but full. The coat has the usual very full skirt, but is held in a little, at side and front of the waist, by wide belt pieces cut in one with the back. Wide revers turn back on the fronts to show a white caracul waistcoat which has a high rolling collar, bordered in the back by black fox. Some superb long capes, as well as some beautiful short capes, are offered by the exclusive houses. A long, full cape of sable, for example, runs down into points on the sides and opens down the front to show a waist length vest of pure white ermine whose collar rolls up and back over the collar of the cape. Side by side with this costly garment is a shoulder cape of all white

and other qualifications would in my opinion suit him to take charge of a school of chiropody, a school wherein chiropody would be taught as a reputable branch of medicine. I asked for a few days to think over the physicians of my acquaintance. The very next day these men came back and asked me to take the position, which I did after careful consideration and

see the crowd that comes here. We began by treating six or eight at a clinic. Last year, from August, 1914, to August, 1915, we treated 10,665



A white caracul cloak trimmed with black fox, a close fitting seal-skin coat and a short, full black caracul coat.



upon the urging of many physician friends.

"The school was started in 1913 and not only has the number of students, both in the day and the night school, increased rapidly, but the clinic which is conducted in connection with it has grown amazingly."

Dr. Lewis led the way from his office to the clinic room, a room so long that it seemed more like a very wide hallway, with a double line of what to the uninitiated appeared to be dental chairs with white covers.

"People who see this room for the first time ask what we do with so many," Dr. Lewis said. "I wish they would drop around during a clinic and

cases, of which 4,616 were new cases. In order not to pauperize these people we make a nominal charge of 10 cents for three months. As a rule these people are all suffering with serious troubles of the feet, the majority caused by lack of attention at the proper time. Every day the number of our patients increases. It is the same with the number of our students, who come from every State in the Union, as well as from many foreign countries.

"As scientific chiropody becomes more generally known, and practiced, not only will the care of afflicted feet be improved, but the shape of shoes will be more in conformity with the

normal human foot. A mother who not put spring heels on her child's feet will think she is doing the very best that can be done for her. Neither will a person suggest wearing moccasins as a preventive of all foot troubles. Moccasins were good for the Indians, who had no corns, bunions, ingrowing nails nor many of the minor foot diseases from which we to-day suffer. How different are conditions to-day. Instead of walking on the earth, with its natural resiliency to offset the shock, we have the hard pavements and stone floors of our hygienic buildings. It is the same reason why a horse reared in the country without wearing shoes has to have them when brought to the city.

"When it comes to stockings for ordinary wear silk, wool, lisle or cotton are about equally good provided—Here he held up his finger. 'Provided there are no seams or the seams are in the right place. Seams in stockings are the cause of more foot troubles than you think.'

"The European war is teaching us all a lesson about the proper care of the feet. Many of the armies have a corps of chiropodists attending to the feet of the soldiers. Soldiers on the march, sportsmen or any one much on their feet should wear woollen

stockings and change them daily. The shoes should be made right and left, and should lace firmly over the instep and around the ankle to keep them in place. The foot of the stocking, as far as the ankle should be rubbed over with common yellow soap to prevent the feet from becoming chafed. Several pairs of these stockings may be prepared at once so as to have them in readiness. When they are changed in the evening of course the clean ones should be without soap.

"After a day's fatigue the feet should be soaked for ten or fifteen minutes in a pail of hot water in which two large handfuls of salt have been previously dissolved. Then the feet should be wiped dry and rubbed thoroughly with alcohol."

### GOLD THIMBLES AGAIN.

GOLD thimbles are in fashion again. Their popularity waned soon after the ending of the civil war. It was an effect of the coming of the sewing machine.

The European war has brought thimbles into fashion once more. When not sewing for the soldiers or the impoverished people of the stricken countries, girls, the older ones, are sewing for themselves or their families. The younger ones, toddlers included, are sewing for their dolls.

But gold thimbles are not the only kind to be had at the shops. There are platinum thimbles, silver thimbles, thimbles of tortoise shell and others of ivory, real or near. All of them are dainty in appearance as well as useful. Though a gold thimble may be the heart's desire of every girl, those of ivory finish and platinum have the advantage of being so light that even the most inexperienced seamstress soon becomes unconscious of having one on her finger. This is a great advantage to little girls who are learning to take their first stitches as well as to older girls who do much needle-work.

Along with the thimbles come various other conveniences for the girl who knows how to handle a needle. There are sewing cases of many kinds. Then there are sewing baskets. Some are ready fitted, while others have only the places for the various articles, which gives an opportunity for individuality.

The most popular of the sewing tables are exact copies of those used by Martha Washington and Dolly Madison. Being exact copies they are of waxed mahogany. The darker the wood the more desirable the table. One of the handsomest of these used in the White House was bought by a New Yorker for his daughter. The velvet lining and the fittings of two drawers were in dark green, the girl's college class colors.

There are two gold thimbles in their little pockets in the upper drawers and the second drawer holds a pair of darning egg and the little form for mending gloves were all gold mounted. There was an emery cushion as well as a cushion for pins and another for needles, besides a wax strawberry to keep the thread from knotting. Martha Washington herself could not have had a more complete sewing outfit if one excepts a sewing bird. Perhaps later on some dealer in articles for women may recall that in sewing days ladies used these little birds of carved silver to hold their work fast while whipping or hemming. The bird was fastened to the edge of the sewing table by means of a silver screw and the work was held in its beak.

## THE VARIED ACTIVITIES OF WOMANKIND

MISS GRACE CARMALT and Miss Susie Norwood of Baker, Ore., are said to be the only women gold miners in the world. The gold mine owned and worked by these young women came to them as an inheritance. On the death of their father, who had been partners in this mine, the two girls took over the claim, which was at that time only a good prospect. Instead of taking in a man to develop the mine, they took over the mine and the average miner as it appears in the fashion advertisements, and, at any rate, is likely to die of its own popularity before another season.

These boys were in need of family ties to influence their daily lives and that when on furlough they had no place to go.

This gave her the idea of the Correspondence Club and she at once took up the matter with the Secretary of the Navy. He replied that he thought the plan unique and gave her permission to try it. Mrs. Ellis soon found herself overburdened with letters from her adopted sons and so she set about getting other women to help her.

The requirements for membership in the Mothers' Correspondence Club are very few, though not easy to fill. These requirements are: A true Christian spirit, a heart full of love for boys, a mature motherhood and a good education. Boys who are "adopted" are made to feel at once that they have acquired a family. "Mothers" are pledged to write long homey letters just as they would to their own sons. When a mature motherhood and a good education. Boys who are "adopted" are made to feel at once that they have acquired a family. "Mothers" are pledged to write long homey letters just as they would to their own sons. When a mature motherhood and a good education.

During this time they had lived alone in a little mountain cabin in the Owl Mountains, about eighteen miles from Baker. When they finally discovered a vein rich enough to work they took to the mill and the installation of the complicated machinery of the stamp battery. Now that their mine is taking out pay dirt they superintend the miners and so do not have to divide dividends with a third partner.

The Conference of Southern Women has determined to stamp out illiteracy in the Southern States. They are planning to enlist the services of every girl who graduates from a college or a normal school next summer. These girls are to be asked to pledge themselves to teach at least one illiterate person, black or white, young or old, during the summer months. It makes no difference who these persons are, so long as they come under the head of illiterate. Though no special plans are laid out, it is hoped that each one of these volunteer teachers will be able to teach her pupil at least how to read and write.

Last spring, when the plan had its first trial, a circular letter was sent to the leading colleges and normal schools in several Southern States asking girls to be graduated the following June to undertake this work experimentally. The response was so general and so hearty that the conference determined to broaden the field. This summer, instead of the work being carried on in five States, it will include every State from Virginia to Texas, and where college graduates are few and far between high school girls will be appealed to.

Mrs. Emma Ellis of Indianapolis, Ind., is the originator and head of a new department in the United States navy, the Mothers' Correspondence Club. The idea of mothering Uncle Sam's boys in the navy came to Mrs. Ellis about eight years ago when, as a delegate to a church conference, she heard a speaker discussing navy conditions. He declared that he had known of many instances where motherless boys would pay 10 cents to read letters from their comrades received from home. Thinking to get hold of these boys Mrs. Ellis first began to work alone temperance lines. She found that many of

for cutting to be given to the Fruit, Flower and Ice Missions during the summer months. For the past three years prizes have been offered for the improvement and beautifying of home gardens and front and back yards.

The Garden Club of Illinois has gone into the work on an even broader scale, has divided its work into two branches—the study of private gardening and encouraging community interest in planting and caring for trees and beautifying public streets and parks. Each member selects a flower or plant to grow. She experiments with varieties, tries different methods of culture, and when her specialty is in bloom invites the club to visit her garden and inspect it. Each member retains a written report of work, which at the end of the year is typed and distributed. By this method each member is building up a valuable library of information. It was through the influence of this club that an ordinance was passed at Lake Forest, the headquarters of the club, under which a commission of forestry was appointed, and a professional forester hired to take care of the city trees and operate the spraying machine donated by a member of the club.

Women are at the head of twenty-four of the 622 county and university of this country, according to the directory just issued by the National Bureau of Education. Of nearly 3,000 county superintendents 598 are women. In Montana all the county superintendents are women. Wyoming has all women except two, Kentucky, which is the only Southern State allowing women to serve in this office, has twenty-six.

Out of the 1,300 society libraries women supervise 1,075. In the Government Bureau of Education eleven of the thirty-three bureau officials are women. In the whole country there are 12,000 conspicuous educational positions, largely of an administrative character, 2,500 of which are held by women.

Mrs. Monod with one woman assistant is in full charge of the out of town school for crippled French soldiers near Lyons. In this school only soldiers who have been crippled in their legs are taken. It has accommodations for 100 maimed men who are taught tailoring, shoemaking, carpentering and gardening. Strange to say the majority of the cripples prefer to become gardeners and many of them are very successful at it.

This out of town school is the second establishment to train maimed French soldiers to help themselves. The first is in the city of Lyons and was established by M. Edouard Herriot, Mayor of Lyons. The majority of the teachers in both schools give their services free.

Mrs. Tilda Lotham is said to be the only professional cook to be elected a member of the Parliament of her country. She is one of the twenty-one women elected to the Parliament of Finland.

Miss Dotina Stone Pinneo, an officer of the Woman's Civic League of Norwalk, Conn., has taught her fellow townsmen how to lower the cost of living. Last year she showed 200 children of Norwalk how to plant and care for vegetable gardens. These children not only supplied the tables of their families but every Saturday during the season, under Miss Pinneo's direction, sold their surplus in an open market established in the busiest section of the town. Through this market the young gardeners took in cash of the thirty-three bureau officials are women. In the whole country there are 12,000 conspicuous educational positions, largely of an administrative character, 2,500 of which are held by women.

## SOME GOOD FOOT RULES OFTEN BROKEN

THERE is little use for any woman who has become accustomed to wearing grotesque shoes of to-day to put on hygienic shoes without first having her feet properly straightened," asserted the fatherly scientific chiropodist, Maurice J. Lewis, M. D., who after twenty-one years of service as secretary of the New York State Board of Medical Examiners gave up his position to found the New York School of Chiropody.

"I say any woman rather than any man because women are the chief offenders when it comes to wearing shoes that look well rather than those best suited to the shape of their feet," Dr. Lewis continued. "A corn is merely a symptom denoting in most instances that one or more bones of the foot is out of alignment, if not actually displaced. Actual demonstrations have proved that a corn which has troubled a person for years can be entirely eradicated without the use of a knife or chemical by simply restoring the bones to their normal position. The toe must be straightened and strapped in position.

"This is a treatment that requires time, patience, skill and knowledge. Feet that are forced into shoes that have their toe point in the center of the sole certainly will have the bones dislocated and be tortured with corns on the ends and on the tops of many of the toes. A fold, due to lateral pressure of the other toes, and painful ingrowing nails will be induced, while the great toe forced toward the center of the foot will form a bunion at the joint.

"Much has been said both for and against wearing high heels. The fact of the matter is that high heels suit some feet and low heels others. The shoe should be selected that suits the foot. The trouble is that the manufacturers of shoes make every shoe with the same level and expect it to fit all arches, high and low. There is as much sense in such shoemaking

as there would be in making a one size dress and expect both large and small women to wear them. A normal arch may be one-fourth of an inch high and it is possible for it to be an inch and a half. Certainly such feet, the highest and the lowest, will suffer if forced to wear shoes of the same level.

"As the ordinary shoes take very little account of fitting the arches they create the need for artificial arch supports. The anterior transverse arch to be maintained should have a shoe sole that will fit up and into the arch, not straight or concave. The flat or concave sole must eventually let the bones of the foot drop with the accompanying results of flat foot and corns. With the heel of the foot on a spoon two or three inches high or a heel with a high longitudinal arch encased in a heavy flat soled shoe it is not unreasonable to expect the arches to weaken and often break down.

"A woman who has become accustomed to wearing high heels should not attempt to go at once to wearing shoes with low heels. If she does she will be troubled by a feeling as if she were falling backward and will suffer with cramps in the muscles of the calves or have pains in the soles of her feet or the joints of her toes. The reason for this is that some of her muscles have grown lax by disuse and others have stretched or contracted to fit the position forced on the foot by the high heels. Let a woman who has been for some time wearing high heels attempt to walk on the floor in her bare feet. The heel of the shoe she begins by walking on her toes. The heel cord has become shortened and to put the foot flat on the floor causes pain.

"So before putting low heels on a woman who has become accustomed to wearing only high heels you must first restore the foot to normal conditions. The shortened tendons of the toes should be massaged and the toes

should be forcibly flexed each day for a few minutes. The shortened heel cord should also be stretched and massaged, though care should be taken that the foot does not suffer by it. The foot should always be inverted when the heel cord is stretched, either by manual force or by suitable machinery or exercise. The heel of the shoe should gradually be lowered until finally the normal height required by the height of the arch and the shape of the foot is reached.

"We never recommend any particular make of shoe here at the School of Chiropody and for several reasons. One of course is that the same shaped shoe is not suited to every foot. Though this is the case there are certain general principles to be observed in the construction of all shoes for normal feet. Such shoes should have an absolutely straight inner line, there should be adequate room for the toes as well as the ball of the foot, and the length of the shoe should be at least three-quarters of an inch longer than the foot it is to encase.

"The form of the arch should be observed and protected, the heel of the shoe should be of a height to insure the proper balance of the body on the foot in the shoe, and the inner sole should be made so that the weight of the body is adjusted to the outer line of the foot.

"In past years it was the custom for children to wear shoes either with spring heels or no heels at all. This caused many children to have flat feet or fallen arches. The height of the shoe heel depends on the development of the arch. The arch of the male foot of the human race is not so well developed as that of the female. The wearing marks on the bottom of the shoe of the child who has fallen arches should be such as to show indications of whether or not the weight of the body is properly balanced.

"Because we believe that chiropodists should be able to give their pa-

tients sound scientific advice about the kind of foot covering best suited to the health of the feet, as well as to treat the minor foot diseases, we teach the subject most thoroughly at this school. As to the demand for such a school here in New York it seems to me that one has only to learn that 90 per cent. of all our school children have defective feet and that 90 per cent. of these grow to man and womanhood without having them treated, to realize the necessity for our existence and assured success.

"The reason for this neglect of the feet is, in a measure at least, due to a former scarcity of reliable chiropodists. The New York school is not only the pioneer school of this country, but of the world. Until it was opened there was absolutely no institution where a man or a woman could go to learn the scientific care of the feet. The movement which resulted in this present organization began about four years ago when a group of the most reliable chiropodists in New York appealed to me to help them draft a bill that would lift chiropody from a trade to a skilled profession.

"At that time I was not only a practicing physician in New York, but had been for upward of twenty years secretary of the New York State Board of Medical Examiners. Up to 1894, when the State authorized the Medical Society to examine candidates for license to practice chiropody, any one, without regard to educational, moral or any other qualifications, might call him or herself a chiropodist and start practicing. Since the passage of the new bill, 1912 candidates are required to have at least one year in a high school. It was after this bill became a law that the State Board ordered an investigation of all the so-called schools of chiropody in New York.

"Then these same men who had asked me to draft a bill came asking me to suggest some practicing physician whose knowledge of medicine

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